

10125 Darmuid Green Drive
7742 JUL 12 10:04 Potomac, MD 20814
May 25, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney, MD
FDA
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I would like to express to you my approval of your and the FDA's decision to irradiate foods, such as meats, fruits, vegetables, poultry, and fish. As you and I both know, there are many groups that wish to banish irradiation forever from the Earth, but I have researched the facts about irradiation, and I decided that I agree with this life-saving process. In the following paragraphs of my letter, I will explain to you my reasons, from my research, why I agree with the decision to irradiate food products.

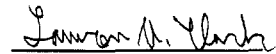
First of all, irradiation is the only known method to completely kill E. coli and it lowers other bacteria levels. To be a little more specific, I will quote the Washington Times. It states that, "Irradiation is the only known method to eliminate a potentially deadly strain of E. coli bacteria in raw meat and can also significantly reduce levels of listeria, salmonella and campylobacter bacteria on raw products." This, to me, is a great reason to jump into the "Save Irradiation" parade. On a more serious note, irradiation has proven that it can help to save thousands of lives.

Second, irradiation is much safer than it seems. For example, while thousands of workers die every year from on-the-job accidents, no food irradiation worker has ever been killed on the job, and no customer has ever been documented to suffer health problems because of irradiation. Also, all those little groups that are against irradiation don't know the facts about it. They've probably never been in an irradiation plant. Food and Water, an irradiation hating group, believes the irradiation plants are fecally contaminated, but the Washington Times, that actually went to an irradiation plant says it was, "utterly spotless, perfectly maintained, and had more back-up safety systems than a nuclear-missile firing system." That sounds safe enough for me.

My final reason for supporting irradiation is that many, many countries and health groups feel just like I do about irradiation. More than 40 countries worldwide have supported irradiation, including the U.S. Also, many important health groups agree with irradiation, such as: The U.N. World Health Organization, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Organization, and of course, the Agricultural Department and the FDA. Also, Health and Fitness says, "it's the most important advance in dietary health since the invention of pasteurization."

By listening to my three reasons, I hope that you still agree with me, and my feeling that irradiation is a wonderful thing. I hope you will try to stop those small, uninformed groups against irradiation, and use this excellent process to save thousands of lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauren A. Clark".

Lauren A. Clark



LAUREN AINSLEY CLARK
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